

PN 6/82

A 685

NPS
INVENTORYNational Park Service
Pacific Northwest Region
Cultural Resources DivisionWestin Building, Rm 1920
2001 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98121

1. SITE I.D. NO.		5. ORIGINAL USE		7. CLASSIFICATION		9. RATING	
2. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE		6. PRESENT USE				10. DATE	
Sunset Park Trail Shelter		Public Trail Shelter				1931	
3. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO.)							
N-304 Golden Lakes		Same					
4. CITY/VICINITY		COUNTY		STATE		11. REGION	
Sunset Park		Pierce		Washington			
12. OWNER/ADMIN ADDRESS							
NPS/Mount Rainier National Park, Tahoma Woods, Star Route, Ashford, WA 98304							
13. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, MAJOR ALTERATIONS, EXISTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, ETC.							

Wood frame, one-story, one-room, rectangular trail shelter; saltbox (lean-to) gable roof extends over log post and beam front "veranda"; cedar shake roof rests on whole log purlins with whittled ends; whole log exterior-interior walls; corner saddle notching; no chinking; log sill foundation; 1" x 7" interior vertical wood platform; earth floor.

Prior to 1920, there were very few shelters for backcountry hikers and park rangers. Superintendent Toll (1919-20) stressed the need for a string of trail shelters to be placed ten to fifteen miles apart on the popular Wonderland Trail. Toll's system evolved into the construction of both patrol cabins and trail shelters under Superintendent O. A. Tomlinson's administration (1923-41). By 1924, there were seven known trail shelters in the park. One was located at Golden Lakes in Sunset Park (Thompson 1981). This pre-1924 shelter must have been demolished, however, for the Superintendent's monthly report of October, 1931, stated that a trail shelter had been constructed at Sunset Park the previous month.

This trail shelter is suffering from extensive log deterioration, especially on the lower base logs and at the corner notches. The environment is generally wet and muddy, making for damp conditions in and around the shelter most of the year. The deteriorating log sills have sunk below the ground level.

14. CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	15. DANGER OF DEMOLITION? (SPECIFY THREAT)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN
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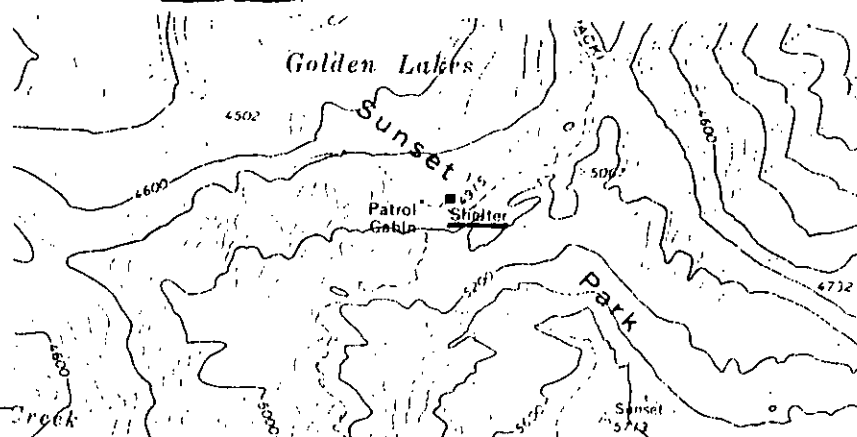
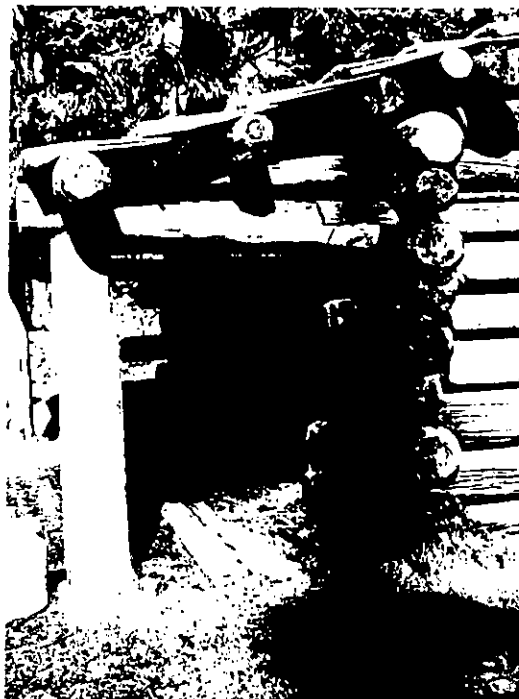
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The structure measures 17'6" x 20'4" (16'6" without porch). The front facade opening is 6' x 6.5'. The height of the front "veranda" is 5'8". A 4'4" x 17'6" interior wood platform spans the entire width of the shelter.

16. Significance

The structure is one of the oldest backcountry shelters in the park. It was one of the numerous trail shelters constructed on the popular Wonderland Trail, a policy begun under Superintendent Roger W. Toll (1919-20) and expanded during the superintendency of Major O. A. Tomlinson (1923-41).

17 PHOTOS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION



18 LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ NAME

19 PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY ☐ YES, LIMITED ☒ YES, UNLIMITED ☐ NO ☐ UNKNOWN

20. EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ NR ☐ NHL ☐ HABS ☐ HAER-1 ☐ HAER ☒ NPS ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL ☐ OTHER

21 REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

- Building file N-304, Maintenance Division, Mount Rainier National Park.
- Erwin N. Thompson, Mount Rainier National Park, Washington, Historic Resource Study (Denver: Historic Preservation Branch, Denver Service Center, National Park Service, 1981).
- Superintendent, Monthly Report, October, 1931, Archives, Mount Rainier National Park

22. INVENTORIED BY
David Harvey

AFFILIATION
MORA Cultural Resources Survey

DATE
9/21/82